

SOME NOTES ON THE DWARF MISTLETOE

BY CLIFTON D. HOWE

Until recently the known distribution of the dwarf mistletoe [*Razoumofskya pusilla* (Peck) Kuntze] was confined to a few stations, these being in New York, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania. These stations doubtless became known through the interest immediately stimulated by the discovery of the plant at Warrensburg, New York, in 1871, and by the subsequent description of it by Peck in 1873.* In 1898 and 1899, the range of this interesting parasite was extended by its discovery in Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont. The most northern station was Fort Kent, Aroostook County, Maine. An account of these discoveries with descriptions and notes upon its habitat was published in *Rhodora* for January, 1900.

Last summer, as a member of the New York Botanical Garden Expedition to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, the writer found *Razoumofskya pusilla* at Pictou, Nova Scotia. The host was a small black spruce (*Picea Mariana* B.S.P.), growing on the edge of a pond in the woods about one mile from the sea. A month later, August 10, 1901, he discovered another station at Bay of Islands on the western coast of Newfoundland. The trees affected were in a sphagnous swamp on the top of a rocky hill abruptly rising about 400 feet from the bay. As in the former case, the host plant was the black spruce, but the parasite was much more abundant. Twenty spruces bearing conspicuous "witches' brooms" were counted on an area of less than a half acre. The trees were small, stunted and sickly in appearance. Some of them, apparently unable to endure the parasites, combined with an inhospitable climate, had succumbed before attaining their normal size.

The locality is about thirty miles from the open ocean, being at the head of the Bay of Islands near the mouth of the Humber River. Thus the plant is to some extent protected from the extreme exposure of the coast, while at the same time it has the environment of abundant moisture which seems most favorable

* Peck, C. H. Twenty-fifth Ann. Rep. on N. Y. State Mus. Nat. Hist. 69. 1873.

to its development. An unsuccessful search for *Razoumofskya* was made at other places in Newfoundland.

The station at the Bay of Islands is very near the 49th parallel of latitude. As *Razoumofskya pusilla* is one of the outlying representatives of a chiefly southern and tropical family, its occurrence so far north seems worthy of record.

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SHORTER NOTES

A GEORGIA RHODODENDRON.—For nearly three quarters of a century a single specimen of a *Rhododendron* related to the Alleghenian *R. punctatum* has been preserved in the Columbia University herbarium. This specimen was collected in middle Georgia by Dr. Boykin, and nothing similar to it came to my notice until Mr. A. Cuthbert sent me specimens which he collected in the spring of 1901, from shrubs growing along the Savannah River, near Augusta, Georgia.

The most conspicuous external character of this species is the relatively long corolla-tube which in this case is longer than the lobes. In the case of *R. punctatum* the lobes of the corolla are longer than the tube. A striking feature of the plant is the corolla-limb with its broad crisped lobes, the upper lobe being copiously yellow-blotched. The corolla-lobes of *R. punctatum* are of an ovate type and perfectly flat along the edges. I shall call this species after Mr. Cuthbert and characterize it as follows:

Rhododendron Cuthbertii

A slender straggling shrub 2–3.5 m. tall, with resinous-scurfy foliage. Leaves mostly at the ends of the branches; blades leathery, elliptic, 3–13 cm. long, acute at both ends, or acuminate at the apex, more or less revolute, somewhat reticulated above, scurfy beneath; petioles 1–1.5 cm. long, more scurfy than the blades, rather stout: flower-clusters quite dense: pedicels 1–1.5 cm. long, clothed with pale scales: sepals ovate, 2 mm. long: corolla mainly of a clear rose tint with some yellow near the base; tube funnelform, rather abruptly expanded near the middle, fully 1.5 cm. long; limb 3–3.5 cm. broad, the lobes suborbicular or orbicular-reniform, truncate or subcordate at the base, crisped, the upper one copiously blotched: capsule 8–12 mm. long.